

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066879

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH F-4S

1. AT DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S MARCH 25 LUNCHEON FOR
CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL BAYULKEN, COUNSELOR-DESIGNATE
NIMETZ TOLD TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL THAT WE HAD COMPLETED
A FULL DAY OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE F-4 PRO-
BLEM AND WERE CONSIDERING SEVERAL OTHER IDEAS. NIMETZ HAS
ARRANGED MEETING WITH ESENBEL FOR MARCH 28 AND WILL OUTLINE
SITUATION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.

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2. CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS REVEALED NO WILLINGNESS TO
ENACT LEGISLATIVE RELIEF IN NEXT FEW WEEKS TO ALLOW CON-
TINUING F-4 PRODUCTION FOR TURKEY AFTER APRIL 30. SUP-
PORTERS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY PREFERRED TO AVOID
CONTENTIOUS ISSUE UNTIL ADMINISTRATION PREPARED MAKE VIEWS
KNOWN ON FY 1978 FMS AUTHORIZATION AND GENERAL TURKISH AID
ISSUES. FEARS WERE EXPRESSED THAT MCDONNELL DOUGLAS INTERIM

CONTRACT APPROVAL WOULD APPEAR TO CIRCUMVENT THE "SPIRIT" OF THE ENBARGO AND LEAD TO PUBLIC ISSUE WHICH WE WISH TO AVOID AT THIS SENSITIVE TIME. SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS BOTH URGED ADMINISTRATION SEEK SHORT TERM INTERIM SOLUTIONS TO CARRY F-4 PROGRAM UNTIL JUNE 30. BY THAT TIME FORM OF LEGISLATION FOR FY 1978 SHOULD BE CLEAR EVEN IF BILL STILL PENDING AND FURTHER INTERIM STEPS, IF NECESSARY, COULD THEN

BE TAKEN TO CARRY PRODUCTION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30.

3. IN EFFORT RESPOND TO THIS CONGRESSIONAL SENTIMENT AND TO ENABLE TURKISH F-4 PROGRAM TO GO FORWARD AFTER APRIL 30, DOD HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL MEANS TO EXTEND PRODUCTION. THESE WILL BE OUTLINED TO ESENBEL MARCH 28. THESE INCLUDE: A) USING DOLS 32.9 MILLION OF UNCOMMITTED F-4 LOGISTICAL SUPPORT (SPARE PARTS/GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT) ALREADY FUNDED UNDER THE DOLS 134 MILLION PAID IN FOR LONG LEAD ITEMS USING FY 76-77 FMS AUTHORIZATION AND/OR B) DIVERTING BALANCE UNUSED DOLS 55.4 MILLION OF FY 77 FMS AUTHORITY TO F-4 PROGRAM. EITHER OPTION ALONE COULD CARRY PROGRAM TO JUNE 30; IN COMBINATION TO SEPTEMBER 30. C) A COMMERCIAL CONTACT FOR PORTION OF F-4 PRODUCTION, PERHAPS DOLS 32.9 MILLION FOR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.

4. NIMETZ WILL EMPHASIZE THAT NO GOT DECISION NEEDED BY MARCH 31 BUT AS EARLY TURKISH RESPONSE AS POSSIBLE IS DESIRED. THEREAFTER DOD TEAM CAN BE SENT TO ANKARA TO WORK OUT DETAILS.

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5. BASED ON GUIDANCE FROM SECRETARY VANCE, NIMETZ WILL ALSO TELL ESENBEL THAT A DECISION ON TURKISH MILITARY ASSISTANCE WILL BE MADE PROMPTLY AFTER THE SECRETARY'S RETURN FROM MOSCOW, AND THAT THE CLIFFORD RECOMMENDATIONS ARE RECEIVING SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. WE WANT TO GAIN MORE TIME FOR THE F-4'S IN ORDER TO SEEK A PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS.

6. ESENBEL NOTED TO NIMETZ ON MARCH 25 THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT A REPORTED REMARK OF CLIFFORD TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE EMPHASIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS BUT DOWNPLAYING DCA. NIMETZ EXPLAINED THAT CLIFFORD WAS SPEAKING ABOUT IMMEDIATE NEED FOR APPROPRIATIONS IN FY 1978 BILL, WHILE DCA WOULD BE DEALT WITH LATER. HOWEVER, CLIFFORD DID EXPRESS HIS BASIC SUPPORT FOR THE FOUR-YEAR DCA. CHRISTOPHER

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